

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 11, 2011

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

1,150 floor actions were filed during the past two weeks at the state legislature; no updated budget information posted.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus: 3/8 from the Senate Rules Committee with a technical amendment.

DHS: Stroke Care Protocols: 3/7 referred to the Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: 3/10 referred to Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: 3/10 referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

H2530: Dental Board: 3/10 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with amendment.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: 3/2 from House Health & Human Services Committee with do pass recommendation.

S1499: Probate; Omnibus: 3/10 passed Senate; ready for House.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: Senate Judiciary; 3/14 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: House Rules Committee, 3/14 at 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings *on all the bills* being tracked, see the information provided at the **FULL LIST link below.**

At the end of day 61, 1,337 bills posted and eight passed, seven signed; 140 memorials or resolutions posted, 14 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the *Legislative Update* web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST contains those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults.

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links above provide you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and are available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***These lists will continue to be edited and updated as the legislative session continues.*** Note: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.462

Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2011

S.462 was introduced on 3/2/2011 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI) and is intended to "better protect, serve, and advance the rights of victims of elder abuse and exploitation by establishing a program to encourage States and other qualified entities to create jobs designed to hold offenders accountable, enhance the capacity of the justice system to investigate, pursue, and prosecute elder abuse cases, identify existing resources to leverage to the extent possible, and assure data collection, research, and evaluation to promote the efficacy and efficiency of the activities described in the Act."

On 3/2/2011, the bill read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

H.R.718

Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2011

H.R.718 was introduced on 2/15/2011 by Representative Bob Filner (CA-51).

Directs the Commissioner of Social Security, for purposes of determining cognitive, behavioral, and physical disability under titles II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) and XVI (Supplemental Security Income) (SSI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to amend specified Listings of Impairments by providing medical and evaluation criteria for Huntington's Disease.

Amends SSA title II to waive the 24-month waiting period for coverage under the Medicare program for individuals diagnosed with Huntington's Disease.

On 2/15/2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.877

Title: To express the sense of Congress that Federal job training programs that target older adults should work with nonprofit organizations that have a record of success in developing and implementing research-based technology curriculum designed specifically for older adults.

The bill was introduced on 3/2/2011 by Representative William Lacy Clay (MO-1) and proposes that the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and any other federal program that provides job training and placement services for older adults, should:

- (1) work with nonprofit organizations that have a record of success in developing and implementing research-based technology curriculum designed specifically for older adults.

- (2) partner with such organizations to provide training, student materials, and support for a broad range of workforce technology skills, including basic and intermediate computer skills, Internet, email, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and other appropriate key skills for assisting older workers to enter or reenter the workforce.

On 3/2/2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member. If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

Debate in Congress over proposed cuts includes services and programs affecting older adults.

National Council on Aging - NCOA comparison of fiscal year appropriations as proposed:

<http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/FY11-CRs-030411.pdf>

Administration on Aging Budget Statement:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/About/Budget/DOCS/FY_2012_AoA_Budget_Statement.pdf

Elder Abuse Concerns:

U.S. Government Accountability Office - GAO report on Elder Abuse can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-208>

Highlights page is posted at: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d11208high.pdf>

The **Arizona Attorney General's Office** has information and resources on Elder Abuse posted at: http://www.azag.gov/seniors/elder_abuse.html.

Resource guide: http://www.azag.gov/seniors/elder_abuse_guide.html.

The **Administration on Aging** (AoA) has released *A Profile of Older Americans: 2010* which can be found at:

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aging_statistics/Profile/index.aspx

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aging_statistics/Profile/2010/docs/2010profile.pdf

AoA Funding opportunities are found at:

<http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Growing Stronger Families through Communication; Coordinated by the Family Communications Consortium at Arizona State University

WHEN: Friday, March 25, 2011, 8:30 to 4:30 at the ASU Downtown campus, A.E. England Building, 424 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FCCConferenceFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Arizona Living Well Institute Symposium – "Communicate, Market, & Connect"

WHEN: April 8, 2011, 8 to 4, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AZLWI_2011SymposiumSVTD.pdf

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop; Hoarding: The Best Kept Secret

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 2011; Civic Center Library, 2829 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For registration and more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011TimeOutFlyer.pdf>

Later this year...

WHAT: 2011 National Respite Conference and Grantee Meeting

WHEN: November 1-4, 2011, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Glendale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azrespite.org/respite/manyfaces/>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov .

Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: Due to staffing, the *Legislative Update* will be issued approximately every two weeks. Thank you for your understanding. Have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging